



New Internationalist

The people, the ideas, the action in the fight for global justice

DESIGNS FOR THE FUTURE

New Internationalist Easier English
Ready Intermediate Lesson

This lesson:

Vocabulary: problems and solutions

Reading: skim / read for detail / check meaning of vocabulary

Speaking: explaining designs

Grammar: banana dictation

Writing: a formal letter

Divide ideas into:

b) solutions

a) problems

c) other

“New ideas for a sustainable future”

- 1) Before you read: What do you think the article is about?
- 2) Now skim the article on the next 2 slides
– 2 minutes each slide
to find 6 new design ideas

Write down **6 words**:
– one for each “new idea”



Nell Bennett's 'Coral 3' looks at how to help the world's coral reefs. Nell said that she found a new way to reduce the acid in the sea water around coral reefs to help biodiversity, to save the coastline, and help tourism.

Julia Johnson's 'Plan Bee' could help another serious problem, Colony Collapse Disorder. It kills 23 per cent of British bees each year. Plan Bee is a simple idea that uses wifi to tell beekeepers when bees are behaving in an unusual way in the hives, where the bees live.

People want more and more electronic devices and they become old ideas very quickly. The result is that around 80 per cent of electronic devices are thrown away in landfill. Recycling these devices is difficult because of the glues that keep them together in very slim designs. Andreas Bilicki's 'eGlu' is a glue which can be reversed. He got the idea from studying the feet of geckos. It can make recycling very simple.

One of the worst changes in the world of shopping is bottled water. It takes three litres of water to make the plastic for a one-litre bottle of water.

'Ooho' is an idea which allows you to package water in a cheap, biodegradable way. You can make it in your own kitchen. It's a good way to slowly stop people using and throwing away plastic bottles. It is a prize winner by the design team of Pierre Paslier, Guillaume Couche and Rodrigo Garcia Gonzalez.

All of these good ideas are solutions to problems that we humans have made. Or they are caused by the idea of growth in our economic and political system. It is a system which does not worry about damage to our environment or use of our natural resources. We only need to save the coral reefs and find ways of recycling because we pollute and destroy the natural world.

Two other ideas show a more direct solution. Janice Lau has made 'The Public Abattoir'. It shows visitors how animals are killed for meat, a good way to stop people eating animals. The meat industry is one of the big contributors to climate change.

Finally, Pierre Paslier showed wonderful ideas for what he calls 'advanced protests'. He understands that protesters need new ideas all the time. Paslier has made a remote-controlled car with paint which can draw big images on public buildings. He made a drone that can post banners and messages directly to places which are difficult to get to. And he made a new way for protesters to project images. His ideas for protesters are fun but he wants us to think about dangers for example from new agreements which can result in more chemicals in food, and the Lobbying Bill which is against human rights. He also wants us to know that the Metropolitan Police have new water cannons. This shows that protests are more and more important for change in a world of big business.

http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Can_only_new_ideas_make_a_sustainable_future%3F

Read again to

a) find out more about the 6 ideas and

b) check your vocabulary task

1/ coral

2/ bee

3/ glue

4/ water

5/ abattoir

6/ protests

Discuss: are these
words in correct
section?

Are all 6 designs
good for the world?
How?

a) Problems

coral reefs

acid

biodiversity

colony collapse disorder

landfill

glue

electronic devices

b) Solutions

recycling

wifi

biodegradable

abattoir

remote-controlled car

drone

protests

c) Other

biodiversity

beekeepers

hive

geckos

water cannon

What's this?



Banana dictation:



One of ..1.. worst changes in the world of shopping ..2.. bottled water. It takes three litres ..3.. water to make the plastic ..4.. a one-litre bottle of water. ‘Ooho’ is ..5.. idea which allows ..6.. to package water in a cheap, biodegradable way. You ..7.. make it in your ..8.. kitchen. It’s a good way to slowly ..9.. people using and throwing ..10.. plastic bottles.

Writing

In small groups,

- a) Decide on one of the new designs you think is a good idea
- b) Write a letter to the owner of your local supermarket to:
 - 1/ explain what it is
 - 2/ why it is good and
 - 3/ ask them to stock it.

Homework:

Read the original article – you will understand it, as you have read the Easy English article, and you will learn a lot of new vocabulary and grammar:

<http://newint.org/blog/2014/09/30/sustainability-innovation-royal-college-of-art/>

Then read more Easy English articles and the original – there are hundreds more: [http://](http://eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Main_Page)

eewiki.newint.org/index.php/Main_Page

